

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SAM-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /085 W

----- 065598

R 160208Z FEB 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1381

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: THE CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN - VIEWS FROM FOUR
CITIES

1. THE CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS
CONTINUES TO GATHER STEAM AND BIG CHARACTER POSTERS ARE
AGAIN APPEARING THROUGHOUT CHINA. THE CAMPAIGN THUS
FAR APPEARS CAREFULLY CONTROLLED, HOWEVER, AND THOSE
SLOGANS OBSERVED ON POSTERS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN REFLECTIONS
OF MATERIALS APPEARING IN THE PRESS. THE CAMPAIGN
IN PEKING SEEMS TO BE MOST TIGHTLY CONTROLLED OF ANY
CITY. POSTERS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO THE INSIDES
OF BUILDINGS AND COURTYARDS. AT THE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
WHERE FOREIGNERS ARE HOUSED A HOARDING WAS SET UP AND
POSTERS NEATLY AFFIXED. FOREIGN STUDENTS WERE TOLD
THEY WERE NOT TO PHOTOGRAPH THEM OR TAKE NOTES, BUT
THOSE WHO HAVE READ THEM SAY THEY CONTAIN NOTHING
STARTLING. MOVIE THEATERS AND OTHER PUBLIC HALLS ARE
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FILLED DAILY WITH MASS MEETINGS, MOST LIKELY ALSO A PART

OF THE CAMPAIGN.

2. TRAVEL TO OTHER CITIES HAS GROWN PROGRESSIVELY TIGHTER AS THE SCOPE OF THE CAMPAIGN HAS GROWN. REQUESTS FOR TOURIST VISITS TO SHANGHAI, HANGCHOW, WUHAN, CHANGSHA AND SIAN HAVE ALL BEEN TURNED DOWN RECENTLY. WHEN BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS MAKE TRAVEL TO SHANGHAI A NECESSITY, HOWEVER, CHINESE APPEAR RELUCTANTLY TO BE GRANTING PERMISSION. TWO AMERICAN BUSINESS DELEGATIONS HAVE VISITED SHANGHAI RECENTLY AND THE POLES WERE GIVEN PERMISSION TO VISIT THEIR CONSULATE GENERAL THERE.

3. BRITISH EMBOFF IAN ORR RECENTLY ACCOMPANIED LORD MOUNTBATTEN ON HIS TOUR OF CHINA AND THEN RETURNED TO PEKING VIA CHANGSHA AND WUHAN, PROBABLY THE LAST PERSON TO VISIT THOSE CITIES. ORR FOUND CHANGSHA RELAXED AND THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE MET FRIENDLY AND FORTHCOMING WITH DETAILS ON PRODUCTION AND OTHER FIGURES. POSTERS WERE VISIBLE, BUT NOT AS PROMINENTLY AS IN WUHAN.

4. ORR FOUND WUHAN COVERED WITH BIG CHARACTER POSTERS AND THE CITY TENSE. SOME OF THE POSTERS ATTACKING TSENG TSU-YU WERE STILL UP, BUT THEY WERE OLD AND TATTERED BY NOW. NEW POSTERS RELATED TO THE ANTI-LIN, ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN, BUT THOSE ORR WAS ABLE TO READ WERE PRO FORMA. HE WAS, HOWEVER, CAUTIONED NOT TO TAKE PHOTOS. PERSONAL CONTACTS INCLUDING HIS CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE APPEARED TO REFLECT THE GREATER TENSION IN WUHAN. AT ONE FACTORY WHEN HE ASKED ABOUT WORKERS' WAGES, HE WAS GIVEN A LECTURE ON PROPER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HOST AND GUEST AND FROM THEN ON STOPPED BEING A "BRITISH FRIEND" AND BECAME A "DIPLOMAT".

5. SHANGHAI CONTINUES TO BE A CENTER OF ACTIVITY. THE BUND IS COVERED WITH BIG CHARACTER POSTERS AND CARICATURES OF LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS. LARGE CROWDS MOVE FROM POSTER TO POSTER AND ATTEND MASS MEETINGS. IN NONE OF THE CITIES, HOWEVER, HAVE WE HEARD OF ANY SLIPPAGE OF CONTROL. CROWDS ARE MOBILIZED, THE POSTERS UNSPONTANEOUS, AND WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IN PEKING OF PUBLIC RESPONSE, THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STILL SEEMS TO BE A GOOD DEAL OF LETHARGY. NEVERTHESS, THE CAMPAIGN IS IMPRESSIVE BY ITS SHEER SIZE WHICH ULTIMATELY COULD POSE PROBLEMS OF CONTROL.
JENKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING00275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740226/aaaaayvh.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN - VIEWS FROM FOUR CITIES
TAGS: PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005